

Mr. Paul A. Marshall
California Department of Water Resources
1416 9th Street – 2nd Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

JAN 20 2006 00064

Re: South Delta Improvement Project DEIR/S

Dear Mr. Marshall:

Thank you for soliciting public comments in response to the South Delta Improvement Project DEIR/S.

Given the precipitous decline of Delta fish species, it makes no sense to move forward with a project that will "increase water deliveries" to state and federal water contractors by pumping even more water from the already stressed Delta ecosystem. This misguided project cannot move forward until the cause of the Delta fish decline is identified and resolved.

SDIP does not actually "improve" water quality or restore the Delta ecosystem. It simply directs water to state, federal, and local pumps to allow for more Delta diversions. SDIP should actually include an alternative that meets the essential goals of restoring the Delta ecosystem, improving water quality for biological needs as well as for consumptive purposes, and protecting Delta fish species.

If and when the project environmental review is reinitiated, the DEIR/S must, by state and federal law, include a reasonable range of alternatives. Currently, the DEIR/S only considers alternatives to increase Delta pumping and a no action alternative. At least one additional alternative that proposes a significant reduction in Delta pumping should be considered in a reinitiated DEIR/S. The goal of this alternative would be to restore the Delta ecosystem, improve water quality, and protect Delta fish species.

I urge that the SDIP DEIR/S be withdrawn until the causes of the Delta fish decline are identified and resolved. At the minimum, the SDIP DEIR/S should consider an alternative that significantly reduces Delta pumping from current levels. California does not need to increase Delta diversions to meet its current and future water needs. Increased investments in water use efficiency, reclamation, and conservation can meet our needs well into the future.

Please include me on your mailing list to be notified of any decisions or activities concerning this project.

Sincerely,

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American Feb 5
Pyramidal Feb 21-22
Yol March
Feb 25th
Feb 8